

**MINUTES OF MEETING
COMMON COUNCIL
CITY OF MONTICELLO
MONDAY, JULY 21, 2008**

The regular meeting of the Common Council, City of Monticello, Indiana was held on Monday, July 21, 2008 at 6:00 pm. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Jason Thompson and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll call by Clerk Treasurer Liz Oilar was answered by Mayor Jason Thompson, Council Members Dave Kelly, Jim Mann, Grace Oilar, Bill Smith, and Eric Storm, and City Attorney George Loy.

There being no additions, deletions, or corrections to the minutes of the meeting of July 7, 2008, a motion was made by Council Member Bill Smith, and seconded by Council Member Dave Kelly, to approve the minutes as presented. All ayes, motion carried.

Citizens Participation

Mayor Thompson made a change in tonight's agenda with the Med Bill ambulance savings. It has been increased from a 2% savings to a 4% savings. Board of Works Member Phil Vogel expressed concerned over this because the Board of Works just approved the new billing company at a 2% savings. Mayor Thompson stated that Chief Swaim would address that with new business.

Department Head Reports

Street Superintendent Doug Roberts stated that it seems we get a storm about every other week. They are doing limb pickup. We lost a tree here at the City building, which his department cleaned up. They have painted curbs around town. He and Council Member Dave Kelly addressed some issues.

Sewer Superintendent Joe Mowrer stated that he also felt their had been too many storms. They are having normal day to day operations at the plant. Joe and Mayor Thompson had a meeting today with IDEM. This was not a very productive meeting.

Park Superintendent Mitch Billue stated the Kiwanis had their Kid's Day at the park today. They also had a tree go down at the park. Everything is going well at the Pool. Everything else is going well.

Water Superintendent Rod Pool stated that everything is normal at this time. He is working on getting the new City Storage Building started. He was right by the generator when the power went out today. It was pretty cool when the generator kicked on the electricity.

Police Curt Blount stated that the tazers have all been received in the department. They have been busy rapping up a couple of burglaries. The department has been busy with regular runs.

Fire Chief Shane Swaim stated that they have been dealing with tourist out on the water, storms, lightening strikes, and power lines. He had three new firefighters start today.

Consideration of Med Bill Ambulance Billing Contract – Requesting 4% Savings Going into Non-Reverting Training Fund – Fire Department

Fire Chief Swaim stated that the Board of Works just approved a new ambulance billing company, Med Bill. He would like to roll the 2% percent savings, along with an additional 2%, into the Non-Reverting Training Fund. This will fund all the department's training. He feels this will save the City money in salaries and comp time. This money will fund overtime pay also. This will take affect at the beginning of 2009. Council Member Grace Oilar asked Chief Swaim if this would eliminate the training line item in his budge and it will. Council Member Bill Smith asked the Chief how many people he had taking training each week. He stated it really depends on the needs of the department. Council Member Jim Mann stated that he understood some of the departments training is state mandated. Council Member Oilar asked if two or three years down the road if the ambulance collections would be excellent and the Chief has built that fund up would there be a chance the 4% could be reduced. Chief Swaim said, "Absolutely." Mayor Thompson stated that this money is coming from user fees and we are also taking money out of our tax budget. He thanked Shane for all his efforts with the new billing company and Council Member Oilar thanked him for taking the time to meet with the Council, talk to them on the phone at home, and he has been gracious with all the questions and she appreciates that. This will require an amendment to Ordinance 2007-03 which City Attorney Loy will have at the next Council meeting. Council Member Dave Kelly made the motion to allow City Attorney Loy to proceed with amending the Ordinance 2007-03 for the 4% savings to the Non-Reverting Training Fund, seconded by Council Member Jim Mann. All ayes, motion carried.

Discussion of City Storage Building – Water Department

Water Superintendent Rod Pool stated that they have received a drawing from the architect. He has been over to the plant a few times. The building will be bigger than originally planned. The reason for that is the State Highway will take one of their storage buildings when they redo the Washington Street Bridge. He has a place earmarked for another new storage shed. They are only doing the City Storage Building – Water Building at this time. It will be a 64 X 66 building. 24 X 32 is the space for the shelving for the City Storage Building. This area will also house extra equipment and furniture. He stated that when the bridge is completed, the water department will still need the other storage shed. Mattox & Associates gave the Mayor bid specs today. He has a preliminary drawing, which is just a floor plan, no dimensions. Everything is moving forward.

Ordinance 2008-10 Transferring Funds Within the Various Accounts of The City of Monticello, Indiana

City Attorney George Loy stated that Clerk Treasurer Liz Oilar requested a transfer of funds from the 101001361 appropriation to the 101001442 appropriation for the Council budget. Clerk Treasurer Oilar stated that it was her understanding that the Council gave Police Chief Curt Blount permission to buy tazers and shot guns for his department. He will be asking for an additional appropriation once our 2008 Budget is approved. This money will come from the Court Costs money we received earlier in the year. Until he can receive this money, the Council gave permission for Chief Blount to order these items and they would pay for them at this time. He will then reimburse the Council when he receives his additional appropriation. We need to move this money at this time because the Council did not have all the money in their new equipment budget line item. Council Member Grace Oilar made the motion to suspend the rules to the second reading of Ordinance 2008-10, seconded by Council Member Bill Smith. All ayes, motion carried. Council Member Grace Oilar made the motion to approve Ordinance 2008-10, seconded by Council Member Bill Smith. All ayes, motion carried.

Discussion of Grass Clipping Removal – Street Department

Street Superintendent Doug Roberts stated that there has been questions from citizens as to why the City does not pick up grass clippings. He gave each Council Member information as to what some other cities do about this issue. He is concerned about the cost and time involved. It's not just a matter of taking it out of town. It will have to be managed then, also. It would need to be policed. Council Member Grace Oilar asked if there is a tremendous need for this service. Doug said that some people do try to put the clippings along the side of the road. Also, Mayor Thompson stated that some people try to put it with the limbs for pickup and others bag it and put it in their trash. Street Superintendent Roberts stated that he is against picking up the grass clippings. Mayor Thompson has talked to other Mayors and they suggest we do not start this service. Carol Stradling told the Council it would be a costly endeavor. You could be dealing with fires and odors. IDEM suggest for homeowners leave it a lawn. Council Member Bill Smith stated that he didn't want the City to get involved at this time. Carol stated that the Solid Waste District would have grant money available for those wishing to establish a compost facility. This would be a long term commitment. Council Member Grace Oilar believes that it will be way too much work for Doug and his department. Council Member Jim Mann stated that he did not believe this to be a major issue among the citizens he has spoken with. Mayor Thompson will forward the names of concerned citizens to Carol Stradling at this time.

Accounts Payable

Council Member Grace Oilar made the motion to approve the Accounts Payable as presented, seconded by Bill Smith. All ayes, motion carried.

Council Member Bill Smith suggested that the Council form a committee to see what other cities are doing with their Fire Departments. He feels this would give us more insight into the department. Council Member Dave Kelly will be on this committee with Council Member Bill Smith.

There being no further business, meeting adjourned at 6:46 p.m.

Liz Oilar
Clerk Treasurer